



June 20, 2014

## Weekly Report

# A Highlight of Departmental Activities

*The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory list, department headings, icons and text in blue to be linked to more information.*

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### Airport

The Airport sold 1067.30 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 1057 gallons of Jet A. Prepaid customer fuel sales totaled 1289 gallons.

### Board of Elections

Five candidates have filed through Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, for School Board and Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor. Filing will continue until July 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon for both offices. Board of Elections keeps an updated list of those who have filed at: <http://rutherfordcountync.gov/Departments/boardofelections/candidates>.

### Building Inspections

The Building Inspections Department issued 106 permits over 2 weeks totaling \$14,924 in fees. Inspectors have also conducted 329 inspections including several commercial finals. One of those is the new Dollar general on 221 North. Staff also permitted the renovations for the relocation of Ameri-Dial and the Director has been in discussion with Polk County Building Inspections about providing assistance on some inspections through an inter-local agreement. The Director has also continued working with Danny Searcy about the potential relocation project.

### Clerk to the Board

Commissioners Eckler and Holland met with the County Manager on Monday. On Tuesday, Commissioners Lovelace, Owens and Richard attended meetings with the County Manager and the Commissioners met as the Airport Authority. Commissioner Eckler attended the Grassroots meeting on Thursday at the County Office Building. Commissioners Eckler and Holland attended the Grand Opening celebration of the Farmers Market on Saturday, June 20.

The Clerk to the Board was out of the office this week. The Deputy Clerk served in her place. A majority of the week was spent preparing for the June 23 and 24 special meetings. The agenda was completed on Friday, distributed and notices delivered. Two public information requests were received and processed. Five e-media pieces were pushed out to the public. Work continues to finalize the sign replacement program for Solid Waste.

Staff at the County Office Building enjoyed a great fundraiser lunch provided by the Cooperative Extension office on Friday.

### Cooperative Extension

The 4-H Youth Development staff reported:

- Enrollment is open for 4-H Summer Fun workshops. Workshop topics range from cooking to science, agriculture, and nature.
- An agricultural tour of Strawberry Hill was held where young children got to see how fruit was grown, harvested, and sold. They got to pick blackberries, sample fruit and ice cream.
- 4-H members are preparing for 4-H Congress. Four delegates will be attending as full-time delegates. One additional member will be inducted into 4-H Honor Club.

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff held Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group; conducted monthly radio program; met with Extension & Community Association; attended Partnership for Children executive board meeting; conducted Dehydrating Workshop; and held Grand Opening at Farmers Market.



The Agriculture staff worked on the Farmers Market Grand Opening preparations.; program planning for monthly events; EMGV Programming for 2014 Class and existing EMGV's; EMGV Intern Help Desk Trainings; held meetings in conjunction with the WNC AgriVentures Program and ARC Grant Project; held a Conference Call with Renaissance Group-ARC; and worked on the Beginning Vegetable Gardening Class (ages 6-14)

Contacts: 58

## County Manager

The County Manager continued work through the week with the Finance Director on the FY2014-15 budget. He held his regular weekly meetings with the department heads for EDC, Planning and Public Works, Solid Waste, and with the County Attorney and Airport Attorney. He met with the Commissioners throughout the week, as needed, and attended the Airport Authority meeting on Tuesday night. Wednesday began with a meeting at the courthouse with the Clerk of Court and the remainder of the day was spent working on the FY2014-15 budget. On Thursday, the County Manager participated in conference calls related to Grey Rock and the Rutherford Center. Friday was, again, dedicated to budget planning for FY2014015.

## Economic Development

The Executive Director met with the County Manager to review economic development activities; met with stakeholders to evaluate product development opportunities; met with an existing industry on a potential expansion project; attended the Coordinated Economic Development monthly meeting with the County Manager and Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce; participated in the EDC monthly board meeting; held a kick-off meeting with WK Dickson regarding conceptual development plans for an airport industrial park; completed development of a community overview presentation to be presented at the NC Department of Commerce on June 23, 2014; met with Rutherford County Chamber Director; and reviewed IDF grant requirements with Town of Spindale representatives.

The Project Administrator met with existing industry to gather information on a possible expansion opportunity; continued to assemble information regarding user need associated with fiber and 3 phase power services at the airport; networked with existing industry via visits, phone calls and email; visited with NC IRIS liaison, Amy Cochran, at RS Central to share information on joint programs; facilitated the growing Business Advancement Team monthly meeting; scheduled meeting with existing business and allies to discuss ongoing training and workforce development needs; worked on compilation of a Business and Industry Resource Guide and updates to introductory materials and connected Workforce Development team to an existing industry contact for introduction of support programs.

The Economic Development Assistant arranged to have the departmental vehicle serviced; attended the monthly EDC board meeting and transcribed the minutes; reviewed departmental line item balances with the Executive Director; prepared a detailed incentives reporting chart for an existing industry that outlines deadlines and supporting documentation requirements; and attended an IDF grant requirements review session with the Town of Spindale.

## Finance

The Finance Director continues to work closely with the County Manager for the upcoming Commissioners' Budget Adoption Workshop. Finance Director and Deputy Director attended TDA Board's Budget Approval Meeting. Finance Office received notice Friday of the GFOA Award for the 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Accounts payable have been processed.

## Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director met with Motorola representatives to discuss radio programming for the 800MHz radios that were received through various grants; attended a Disaster Preparedness Regional meeting in Caldwell County; worked with Polk County Emergency Management to develop a mutual aid agreement between Counties; assisted the Sheriff's Office and Hickory Nut Gorge Rescue in the rescue of a canine from the Broad River; and transported the fire safety house to Fairfield Mountains Fire Department for a child fire safety event.



## Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hire Jeffrey Burgess (Detention). The Director attended meetings with several employees and department heads and attended the HR Association monthly meeting. The topic for this month's meeting was "Recognizing an Employee in Distress" with Dr. Terry Ledford being the guest speaker. A big thank you to Cindy Moore for organizing this meeting. Current job openings posted are Nutrition Site Manager (part time) and Tax Certification Specialist. View county website to apply. Interviews will be conducted next week for Nutrition Site. A Wellness Fair is being planned for July 29<sup>th</sup> with a lot of helpful information being presented. More information will be sent out closer to date.

## Information Technology

Information Technology closed 82 orders this week. Weekly updates for tax and exchange projects continues. The training room at the Revenue department is about 1/2 way complete and staff are using it. If you need a training room with computers, call IT to schedule your meeting at the Rutherford Center Training Room (RCTR) or at the Revenue Department Training Room (RDTR). Both rooms will have 12 computers (currently 6 in each), an overhead projector, and laptop. The RCTR has a printer in the room and the RDTR has printers in the office area. Both areas have a large conference room table for meetings, if needed. The Sheriff's department and the Revenue department have been giving the new room a good workout and everything seems to be working fine. Staff have been talking to the web designer/host, Sturgis WebServices, about taking over the hosting of the TDA website and staff are working with them to put occupancy tax collections online. Don't forget to use Trackit for all your IT, Maintenance, and VoIP needs, [trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov](mailto:trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov) with

## Library

The Rutherford County Libraries had a very successful kickoff to the Summer Reading Program this week with Vicky Town, Comedic Storyteller, leading events for each of the three branches with over 250 in attendance. That evening, Ms. Town conducted a Comedy Improv Workshop for Teens, which was very well received. Next Tuesday, June 24, Ventriloquist Steve Brogan will be entertaining and encouraging the children to read and participate in the Program. Performances are at 9:30 am. at Haynes Branch Library, 12:30 p.m. at Rutherford County Library, and 3:30 p.m. at Mountains Branch Library. All events are free and open to the public.





## 2014 Rutherford County Libraries Summer Reading Program

**Free Programs for ages 2-12  
each Tuesday (except July 4 week)**

- 9:30 am Haynes Branch Library (141 N. Main St.,  
Henrietta 288-4039)  
12:30 pm Rutherford County Library (255 Callahan-  
Koon Rd, Spindale 287-6115)  
3:30 pm Mountains Branch Library (150 Bill's  
Creek Road, Lake Lure 287-6392)

- June 17 Vicky Town—Nationally-known Comedic Storyteller and “Parents’  
Choice” Award Winner ([www.vickytown.com](http://www.vickytown.com))  
\* also at 7:00 p.m.—Teens’ Comedy Improv Workshop at Rutherford  
County Library
- June 24 Steve Brogan—Ventriloquist ([www.stevebrogan.com](http://www.stevebrogan.com))
- July 1 No Program
- July 8 Noah’s Landing Traveling Zoo with numerous exotic animals  
([www.noahslanding2x2.com](http://www.noahslanding2x2.com))
- July 15 Zelnik the Magician ([www.zelnikthemagician.com](http://www.zelnikthemagician.com))  
\* also at 7:00 p.m.—“Tales From Beyond” Magic Show for Teens at  
Rutherford County Library
- July 22 Mad Science Stage Show ([www.madscience.org](http://www.madscience.org))
- July 29 Summer Reading Celebration Party with program by Miss Jeannie

### **Summer Reading Club**

*Reading is vital to the Summer Reading Program. Set your own goals. Get a Contract and Reading Record at the library and return by July 22. Read at or above your level and to preschoolers. Write titles completed on the Record. Certificates and prizes to be awarded at the final program July 29.*



## Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department is seeing many A/C calls due to the hot and very dry. Staff have also experienced a surge in other service orders for plumbing and electrical calls. Maintenance has had a hard and hot week with 70 work order repairs. Staff completed the repair work to the rooftop chiller at the detention center and are obtaining quotes for replacing the ground unit chiller. The garage has been awfully busy with multiple preventative maintenance service calls, repairs, tire service calls and many inspections along with a rebuild. Planning and Projects continue working with regulatory agencies regarding the violations in Queens Gap and an accidental demolition of historical outbuildings at the Biggerstaff property. Staff have also been investigating complaints from a neighbor to Greyrock regarding streams. However, good progress has been made with the Community project and final adjustments to the budget. The planning board met this week, hearing updates for the solar farm, Queens Gap, Greyrock, Community grants and approving additional lots inside Vista at Bill's Creek subdivision.

## Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 10 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$14.25, processed 211 real estate records with \$21,501 received in cash, and processed 210 vitals, receiving \$2,600. A total of 431 transactions were made with a total of \$24,115.25 in cash received.

## Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 539 phone calls, and assisted 198 citizens who came in to the office (3 being PUV). 22 deeds were recorded and 68 were transferred. 3 estates were transferred and 39 new accounts were set up. Mapping completed 5 splits, 2 merges, 4 acreage adjustments and created 5 new maps. 4 new E911 addressees were assigned. Ownership of 29 addressees was updated. 8 new road signs were installed with maintenance on 4. Appraisers completed 414 field reviews and 3 permit reviews. Electronic payments consisted of 28 by credit/debit, 31 by website, and 6 by phone. 147 citizens came in to pay at the counter. Enforced collection action consisted of 47 garnishments, 10 attachments, 1 employee list, and 12 intent letters. 28 Deeds were certified. Staff worked 18 overpayments, 4 plat reviews, 2 pre-permits, 8 bankruptcy payments/issues, 37 VTS issues, 171 bank drafts, 86 prepaids, 4 payment plans, 13 newspapers items, 4 discoveries, 10 releases, and 2 refunds. 236 pieces of mail were received and processed. 3 PUV and 2 listing letters were mailed out. We finished 4614 September motor vehicle renewals.

## Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted "Doughnuts for Dads" on Monday in recognition of Father's Day. A group of seniors also enjoyed a trip to Sweet Frogs for some frozen yogurt on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday, we had "Lemonade & Laughs". The staff provided the lemonade and the seniors shared funny jokes and stories with the group. The seniors traveled to Rutherford Regional's Jewelry Sale on Wednesday to support the Auxiliary's fundraising event. The seniors participated in one of the Center's favorite activities on Thursday—Chair Volleyball. This is a fun activity that provides exercise as well. The Senior Center will host our summer dance on Friday night from 7:00-10:00 p.m. The doors will open at 6:45 p.m. and the cost is \$5.00 per person. Rusty & Chiquita Collins and Band will be playing some of your favorite tunes!

## Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office monthly report for April is as follows:

Calls for Service:	4601
Warrants Served/Total Arrest:	238/196
Domestic Calls:	261
Involuntary Commitments/Hours:	27/23.45 Man Hours
Civil Papers Served:	300
Ex Partes Served:	25
Evictions:	6
Animals Pick Up/Surrender:	240
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued:	124
Animal Control Calls for Service:	155
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol:	129/19
Pill Drop Collections:	9,039 Doses Units/0 ML
Average Daily Inmate Confinement:	199
Gun Purchase Permits:	111
Carry Concealed Permits Issued:	92
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours:	5/6.0 Man Hours
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours:	175/38.0 Man Hours

***Welcome New Employee, Ashlyn Tate.  
Part-time Detention Officer, Effective 5/1/2014***

## Social Services

The Department of Social Services Income Maintenance staff continues to plan for the further implementation of Medicaid in the NC FAST System. The regular weekly NC FAST Conference Call was held on Wednesday. On Tuesday, the Director and Income Maintenance Manager met with Sandra McGriff and Stephanie Hill, of the Rutherford Community Health Center, concerning plans for a Kiosk to be placed at the clinic so that patients can have access to apply for Medicaid on-line through E-pass or by accessing an application. Since the clinic is now a federally qualified health center, it is mandated that patients have access to apply for Medicaid. DSS staff will be conducting training with the clinic staff over the next few weeks. The DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday with four Board members attending. In addition to the regular agenda items, the Board heard updates regarding NC FAST, the Community Care Team, and reviewed budget items, and received updates regarding the State budget and other legislative issues effecting DSS. Also on Wednesday, a meeting was held to discuss funding strategies for the Northwoods Case Management System which included the Director, the Fiscal Officer, the County Finance Director, Social Work Program Manager, and representatives from Northwoods. On Thursday, the Director, Administrative Officer, and the IM Program Manager participated in the monthly Civil Rights/Title VI-LEP/ADA Conference Call. The purpose of these calls is to ensure that DSS has updated information regarding how to maintain compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This includes policy and standards for providing language interpretation, interpretation for the deaf and hard of hearing, and access to services for disabled consumers.

## Soil and Water

The Soil and Water Department's Admin/Education Specialist worked with the watershed contractor on maintenance requests and questions, and worked with teacher to complete and submit the interim reports for the Outdoor Environmental Learning Center grants. The Ag Cost Share Technician met with landowners, processed a request for payment, inspected a practice for completion installation, and participated in a Webinar for pasture management.

## Solid Waste



The Solid Waste landfill served 344 customers, hauled 57 loads from convenience centers, shipped 33 loads to Lenoir and sent out three recycling trailers. The textile company has picked up two loads. We are scheduled to send out another electronics trailer at the beginning of next week. The Director attended the solid waste weekly meeting with the County Manager. Also during this meeting Adrienne and myself presented a slide show on the new signs for convenience centers. The Director met with HR on a employee concern and met with a sales representative from FCC Environmental that stopped by the landfill. The rest of the staff continues to perform everyday job duties. Staff are bush hogging the Avondale landfill this week. Staff also return the signed contract for the two new recycling compactors at Avondale and Colfax back to the state to start this process. We will not be able to start until August on these sites.

The solid waste code enforcement officer report is as follows:

Active cases 13  
Convenience center cases 3  
Letter sent 2  
Citations written 1  
Community service workers 6  
Community service reports 1

***Please remember to recycle and also being looking for new textile bins that will be appearing at convenience centers soon.***



## Tourism Development Authority

The TDA Board met this week and passed the 14-15 budget. Staff meeting reviewed new procedures and new web and travel guide.

## Transportation Services

**EMS** Personnel responded to 226 emergency calls and 49 convalescent calls. An additional 24 hour ambulance was put on the daily rotation schedule to assist in Alpha calls while Rutherford Rescue is temporary closed for ten days. EMS provided coverage for Chase, R-S and East graduations over the weekend. Administration is also updating all SOPs and separating out those that are system wide procedures vs. internal procedures.

**Transit** drove 9,573 miles, completed 1,242 local trips and 54 out of county trips, transported 278 unduplicated passengers and collected \$14,348 in revenue. Since implementing MDT's at Transit, there has been a reduction in total miles by approximately 300 miles/week and a reduction of 18 hours/week in payroll. That is approximately \$600 reduction in expenses a week. Administrative staff have been working with surrounding counties to petition our State Senators and Representatives to remove the state broker system for Non Emergency Medical Transportation. If a broker is put in place, the community transit systems and local cab companies will suffer a loss of business and passengers will lose the convenience of the local system.

## Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 41 mail-ins, 36 mail-outs, 75 telephone contacts, and 138 veteran contacts.

The hot dog sale/fundraiser went very well. A big thanks to all from the American Legion Auxiliary. All funds stay in the County to assist local veterans in need.

### *County Commissioners*

**William Eckler, Chairman**

**Julius Owens**

**Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman**

**Roger Richard**

**Greg Lovelace**

**Carl Classen, County Manager**

**Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board**

**Richard Williams, County Attorney**



*Stay connected!*

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